Correspondence

To Dr RUTHERFORD, *Professor of Medicine and of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.*

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SIR,

HAVING been told by Mr Alexander Wood this afternoon, that you have alleged that I am the author of a Pamphlet, intitled, "A Guide for Gentlemen "studying Medicine at the University of Edinburgh," I take this method of informing you, that I neither wrote that Pamphlet, nor had the smallest concern in the publication, either directly or indirectly.

As the allegation may be prejudicial to my Character, I hope and trust you will take every proper opportunity of contradicting the report.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

EDINBURGH,
Nov. 23. 1792.

JA^{s} HAMILTON jun.

To Dr JAMES HAMILTON *Junior.*

SIR,

YOU must have misunderstood Mr Wood, in suspecting that any supposition of your being the Author of the Pamphlet you allude to originated with me. I confess myself totally ignorant who was the Author of it. I certainly have heard it imputed to you among others; but as all seemed to me to be vague report, I have never given myself any trouble about it. If you think the allegeance can be prejudicial to you, you must yourself clear yourself of the Imputation. I can do nothing farther in this than acknowledging your having disavowed it to me if I am ever spoken to upon the subject which I hardly expect to be.

I am,

SIR,

Your most humble Servant,

Friday Evening,
Nov. 23.

(Signed) D. RUTHERFORD.

To

To Dr GREGORY, *Professor of Medicine, and of the Practice of Physic, in the University of Edinburgh.*

SIR,

I HAVE been told by several people, that although I sent a letter to Dr Rutherford, which you must have seen, asserting that I had no concern whatever in the publication of a Pamphlet, intitled, " A Guide for Gentlemen studying Medicine " in the University of Edinburgh," you still persist in alleging that the work originated from me, or that I had assisted the Author.

As I cannot be induced to believe, that a man in your respectable situation should subject himself to the consequences of *falsely calumniating* any person's character, I am inclined to think, that the Gentlemen who have given me this information, have mistaken your meaning.—But, as I feel myself much interested in knowing the truth, I take this method to learn from you, whether I have been misinformed or not.

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

EDINBURGH,
*Jan.*17. 1793.

JA^{s} HAMILTON jun.

To Dr JAMES HAMILTON *Junior, Castlehill, Edinburgh.*

SIR,

HAVING no direct knowledge of who were or who were not concerned in the Composition and Publication of the Pamphlet you mention, I never thought myself intitled to *allege*, or simply and positively assert, that you or that your Father had or had not any concern in it. On the contrary, I thought it would have been necessary for the University to have obtained a strict judicial Enquiry into that matter; which enquiry should have terminated either in the full and honourable acquittal, or in the complete conviction and exemplary punishment of the Person *suspected*.

I never dreamed of aſking any Perſon whether he were the Author of that Pamphlet; nor of paying any regard to any perſon's Denial of his being concerned in it: for this plain reaſon, that I was ſure whoever was concerned in it would deny it. It contains ſuch things as no man can avow without incurring laſting Infamy. This the Author well knew; and accordingly publiſhed it under a falſe name, and with the moſt extraordinary Precautions to baffle Enquiry. He publiſhed it with a reſolution to deny it. The falſe Name on the Title Page is *ipſo facto* a Denial of it by the real Author or Authors.

I did ſee your letter to Dr Rutherford; and alſo his anſwer to it: which anſwer appears to me a very proper one.

You know perfectly the general ſuſpicions and opinion which have prevailed concerning the origin and Purpoſe of that Pamphlet. You know alſo on what particulars of internal Evidence and collateral circumſtances that opinion is founded. From the hour I read the Pamphlet I adopted that opinion; and I ſtill retain it. I have mentioned it openly, and alſo the reaſons on which it is founded; particularly in ſo far as related to your Father.

This, I preſume, the perſons who gave you your information have called perſiſting in alleging that the Pamphlet originated from you.

If you think fit to do me the honour to ſingle me out as the Object either of your perſonal Reſentment, or of legal proſecution, for that general and very natural opinion, you are heartily welcome. My Conduct from firſt to laſt in the buſineſs has been upright and open: and I care not how generally it be known, or how ſeverely it be ſcrutinized.

(Signed) JAMES GREGORY.

St JOHN's STREET, *Thurſday Evening*, 17*th January* 1793.

To Dr GREGORY, *Profeſſor of the Practice of Phyſic*, &c.

SIR,

I cannot chooſe, for the object of *perſonal reſentment*, any man who could write ſo extraordinary a letter as that which you have done me the honour to addreſs to me.

You mentioned to my Father, on the 11th of December laſt, that *you could bring your charge home to me.* You have now DENIED that, and ſhelter yourſelf under the canopy of public *opinions* and *ſuſpicions* — opinions and ſuſpicions which probably originated

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originated from, and certainly were ſanctioned and carefully propagated by, yourſelf and Dr Rutherford.

Your letter, and his "*very proper one*," ſhall be laid before the public, who will then be able to judge, how far the conduct of either of you has been "*upright and* "*open.*"

JA^{s} HAMILTON jun.

Edinburgh, January 18. 1793.

To this letter, which was ſent immediately on receipt of Dr Gregory's, no reply has hitherto been made.

J. H.

January 21. 1793.

[Correspondence relative to the publication of a pamphlet entitled "A guide for gentlemen studying medicine at the University of Edinburgh," by Jas. Hamilton jun, D. Rutherford and James Gregory.]

4°. [Edinburgh. 1793.]